



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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NEW PORT RICHEY MAN SENTENCED
FOR UNLAWFUL SALE OF FIREARMS

Tampa, FL - United States District Judge Steven D. Merryday today sentenced JUSTIN COLLINS, age 27, of New Port Richey, Florida, to a term of imprisonment of 71 months. Collins pled guilty on December 21, 2006 to a variety of offenses charging him with the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

According to the indictment and the plea agreement in the case, law enforcement agents met with COLLINS and, in an undercover capacity, bought a variety of handguns from him during April and May, 2006. They also purchased crack cocaine from him on at least one occasion. Among the firearms he sold to the undercover detective were an M-11 Cobray 9mm pistol and other handguns. After his arrest, law enforcement agents searched his residence in New Port Richey and found another firearm, narcotics, and ammunition. At the time of these events, COLLINS had previously been convicted of numerous felony offenses and the State of Florida had not restored to him the right to possess any firearm.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.